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June 17, 2015

Dear Providers:

RE: Meningococcal vaccine for MSM traveling to Chicago during Pride events

In anticipation of the 46th Annual Chicago Pride (June 20-21, 2015) and Chicago Black Pride (July 2-5, 2015) events, please be alerted that the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have recently confirmed 5 cases of serogroup C meningococcal disease in men who have sex with men (MSM); African American MSM appear to be at increased risk.

LAC DPH continues to <u>recommend meningococcal vaccine</u> for MSM at higher risk of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). Due to the recent Chicago cases and upcoming Pride events, LAC DPH is joining the CDC in recommending that providers have increased awareness of the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease among MSM and consider vaccination of MSM planning travel to Chicago during the Pride events.

Providers are encouraged to visit http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Mening.htm for additional information regarding invasive meningococcal disease and LAC DPH vaccination recommendations. Patient meningitis resources are available here: http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/DiseaseSpecific/dontswap.htm.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH

Interim Health Officer

JDG:mo